

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

Minutes of Meeting

May 13, 2005

Attendance:

Robert Clegg, Chairman, Department of Safety

Tyler Carlisle, Board of Engineers, licensed electrical engineer

Jerry Tepe, Board of Architects, licensed architect

Thomas S Lambert, Chief, NH Association of Fire Chiefs, Municipal Fire

John Tuttle, NH Home Builders Association, Architectural designer - residential

Tedd Evans, Board for licensing and regulation of plumbers, licensed master plumber

Wayne A. Richardson, NH Building Officials Association, municipal building official

James Petersen, PE, Board of Engineers, licensed mechanical engineer

Rick Swain, NH Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Assoc., mechanical contractor, business

Michael Santa, CBO, Governor's Commission on Disability, Architectural barrier/free design

Fred Baybutt, Associated General Contractors, building contractor - non-residential bldgs.

Mark Weissflog, NH Electrical Contractors Business Assoc., licensed master electrician

Joel Fisher, Board of Engineers, licensed structural engineer

George Maihos, NH Electricians Board, licenses master electrician

Wes Golomb, Public Utilities Commission, State energy conservation code office

Excused:

Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association

Mark Tibbetts, NH Association of Fire Chiefs, municipal volunteer fire chief

Guests:

Marta Modigliani, Attorney, Department of Safety, Office of the Commissioner

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal, Division of Fire Safety

Chairman Clegg declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Changes to State Fire Code

Chairman Clegg asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. Bill Degnan, State Fire Marshal spoke. The amendment change that they are proposing would take care of a problem that deals with one and two-family dwellings, in regards to the stair and guard configuration. And usually, the State Fire Marshal can take care of things on a variance type basis. He appreciates the feed back they are getting as they proceed forward onto the rule making process and the public hearing that is involved in that. John Tuttle asked about dwelling units within an apartment building that would still be of a single-family residence, if they were 2-story, or if they had a loft in them. Language was sought out to propose that would include those residences, apartment buildings, or condos etc., to be included. Bill Degnan reported that he is not prepared to bring that forward at this time

because it is not a wide-scale problem. The variance process is there for exceptions like those, and all that needs to be done is to provide the justifications to why those stair configurations should be changed in the building.

Chairman Clegg asked if there were anymore members from the public who wished to testify. Seeing none, declared the **Public Hearing closed**.

John Tuttle make the **Motion** to adopt the changes specified by the State Fire Marshal's office. **Motion** was **Seconded** by Tom Lambert.

Discussion: Jerry Tepe wanted to 'second' what John Tuttle brought up regarding individual variances to the Code, but would like it extended to within the dwelling units of multi-family buildings - and make it clear that it is only within the dwelling units - the public staircases would not be effected by that change - only staircases within the dwelling units. This is consistent with the feed-back the Board gave the Fire Marshal during the last meeting.

Fire Marshal Degnan reported that he suspects the research on that subject would probably be the same, but has not done any.

Chairman Clegg asked the Fire Marshal if would have a problem with an amendment that allows for this . . .to include the inside of the dwelling?

Fire Marshal Degnan said he was fine with it - so long as the public areas stayed the same.

Rick Swain asked what the Board's role was. Chairman Clegg stated that this Board would either approve/recommend or disapprove/not recommend the amendment(s) as they are brought before the Rules Committee.

Tedd Evans suggested that John Tuttle's **Motion** be amended to include the recommendation to include the current text as well as what was just brought up by Jerry Tepe.

John Tuttle **AMENDED** his **Motion** to be: To recommend to the Rules Committee, JLCAR, that they approve the amendment proposed by the State Fire Marshal to the Fire Code and that they include the interior of a dwelling unit, but not the public areas. Tom Lambert the **Secondary** to the original **Motion** concurred.

Mike Santa concurred that the amendment would be a good one. Jerry Tepe said this was new with the 2003 Life Safety Code, and prior to that, had these other changes in it.

There being no further discussion - the Chair called for a vote. Vote take was **Unanimous** and so declared.

GENERAL MEETING:

Adoption of meeting minutes from April 9, 2005:

Jerry Tepe made the **Motion** to accept the minutes as written. Wes Golomb **Seconded** the **Motion**. There being no discussion - vote was taken - vote was declared **Unanimous** and so declared accepted by the Chair.

OLD BUSINESS:

Smart Codes

Mike Santa reported that the subcommittee met this morning. The subcommittee decided that it would be best to concentrate efforts on adopting the 2006 Edition of the International Existing Building Code. The final code changes will go through in September and the new Code will probably be available in February. They identified structural issues as something that needs to be reviewed over the summer. Joel will be touch with the Structural Engineers of New Hampshire (SENH) and see what issues they have. The subcommittee would like to meet with the State Fire Marshal over the summer to resolve the issue on how the IEBC will work with the Life Safety Code. Jerry has a possible amendment that would take care of the issue quite easily.

Wayne Richardson asked if renovations would have any cumulative effect and change the threshold as you work in a building? For example if he works in a building at level 1 - and does small areas continually, does it have a cumulative effect before he goes onto the next phases? Mike said there might be a time frame. Wayne said there should be a mechanism that says 'you've worked on the building 60% 70% . . . lets bring the building up to Code.'

State Building Code Web-Site:

Marta reported that since the last meeting - she resent the photos that some got and some did not - and still only got a few responses. The photos will be resent again - one at a time. From the responses she gets back, she will be able to use them for the rotation.

Townhouse exemptions IBC and IRS:

Jerry Tepe reported Med K has certain issues with townhouses and while Jerry is not sure exactly what they are, in Med's absence, he believes they pertain to the fact that the IBC refers to the IRC for one and two family dwellings and townhouses. So technically, we do not control the construction of townhouses. Without that type of control, you can in essence, string these townhouses from 1 to 100 in one row in one huge building because there is no control if you build them as townhouses instead of multi-family dwellings. Within the International Residential Code there are requirements for the fire subdivisions between the units, but because we don't regulate them, they are not in there. A suggested solution would be to adopt that one section out of the IRC that deals with dwelling separations.

Mike Santa said that in the old editions of the Code, they allowed a reduction of the hourly rating on the fire separation wall from 2 to 1 if you sprinklered the building. And right now there is no provision for that.

Building Safety Week Proclamation:

Mike Santa expressed his thanks to Senator Clegg and Senator Eaton for doing all they did for getting the Governor to spend some time with them and for issuing the proclamation.

Marta asked if the posting could be taken off the web site which was approved. Next year we can start the activities earlier prior to the actual week.

Financial Disclosure Forms:

Chairman Clegg reminded everyone that it is a requirement that they be sent in.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer hiatus:

Chairman Clegg reported that he would like to take July and August off. Chairman Clegg will make an announcement this next month to cancel the regularly scheduled meetings for July and August, unless there is a filing with the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Wes Golomb made the **Motion** to adjourn. **Motion** was seconded by Tom Lambert. Vote was **Unanimous** in favor - and so declared by the Chair.

Future Meeting Dates: June 10, September 9 and October 14
(Board will be in recess during July and August)